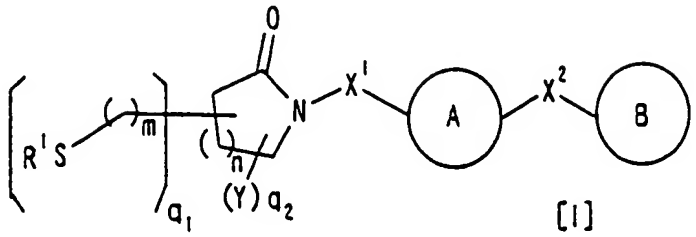
In the Claims

Please cancel claims 7, 8, 10 and 17 without prejudice to the filing of future continuing applications.

Please substitute the following claims 1, 3 and 13-16 for the pending claims 1, 3 and 13-16.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by Formula:



[I]

wherein ring A and ring B may be same or different and each is an optionally substituted homocyclic or heterocyclic ring,

wherein the substituents on ring A and ring B may be bound to each other and taken together with ring A, ring B and X^2 to form a condensed ring,

each R^1 may be same or different and is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or SR^2,

~~(~~wherein R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~)~~,

X^1 is a bond, an optionally substituted divalent C_{1-3} aliphatic hydrocarbon group or $-NR^3-$,

~~(~~wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an acyl group~~)~~,

X^2 is a bond, an optionally substituted divalent C_{1-3} aliphatic hydrocarbon group, $-NR^4-$ ~~(wherein R^4 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted~~

~~hydrocarbon group or an acyl group)~~, -O- or -$S(O)_p$- ,

wherein R^4 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an acyl group,

~~(~~ **and** wherein p is 0, 1 or 2~~)~~,

each Y may be same or different and is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, an acyl group, an optionally substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted amino group, SR^5 ~~(wherein R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group)~~, an oxo group, a thioxo group, an optionally substituted imino group, a nitro group or a cyano group,

wherein R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

each m may be same or different and is 0 or 1,

n is ~~an integer of 1 to~~ 3,

q_1 is an integer of 1 to 2n+4,

q_2 is an integer of 0 to 2n+3,

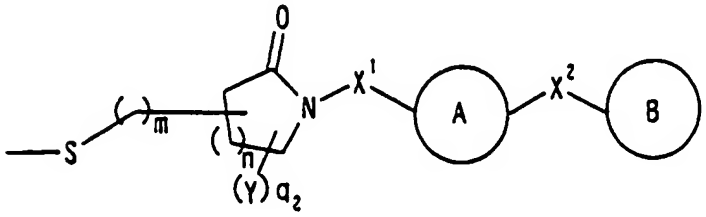
and the sum of q_1 and q_2 is 2n+4,

provided that when ring B is a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring then X^2 binds to a position capable of being substituted except for a nitrogen atom on ring B, or a salt thereof.

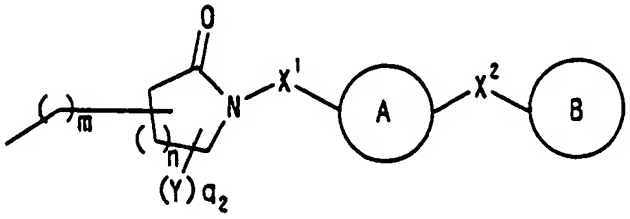
2. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein each of ring A and ring B is an optionally substituted benzene ring.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein each R^1 may be same or different and is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl group, -(C=O)-R^6 ~~(wherein R^6 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group)~~ or SR^2 **wherein R^6 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an optionally substituted amino group or an optionally substituted hydroxy group and** (wherein R^2 has a meaning defined in Claim 1).

4. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein each R^1 may be same or different and is represented by Formula:



wherein each symbol has a meaning defined in Claim 1, or by formula:



wherein each symbol has a meaning defined in Claim 1.

5. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X^1 is an optionally substituted methylene group.

6. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X^2 is -O-.

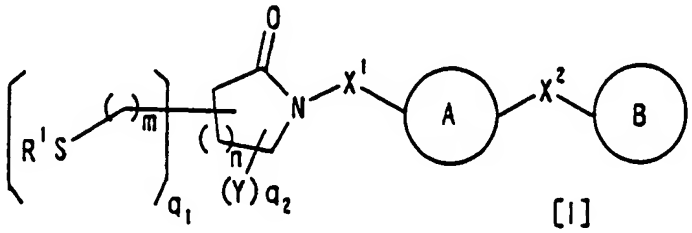
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein m is 0.

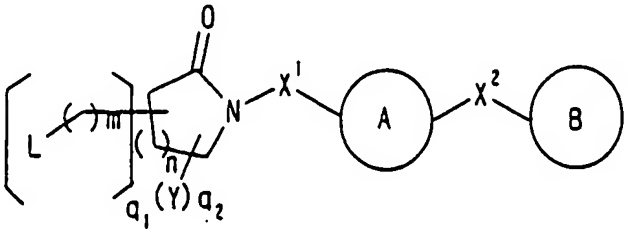
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A method for producing a compound represented by Formula:



[I]

wherein each symbol has a meaning defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof, comprising reacting a compound represented by Formula:

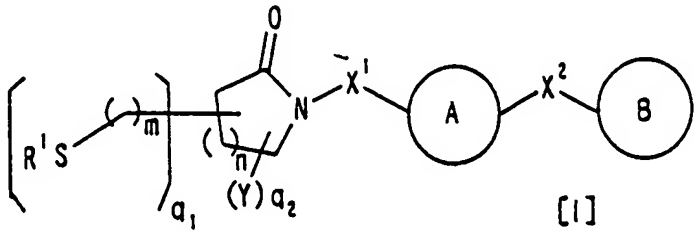


wherein L is a leaving group and each of other symbols has a meaning defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof with a compound represented by Formula:

$$R^1SH$$

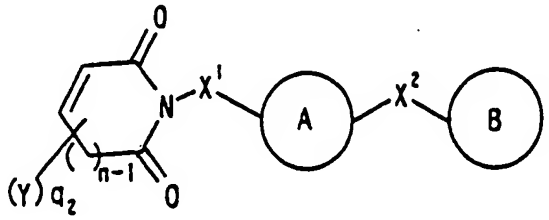
wherein R^1 has a meaning defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof.

12. (Original) A method for producing a compound represented by Formula:

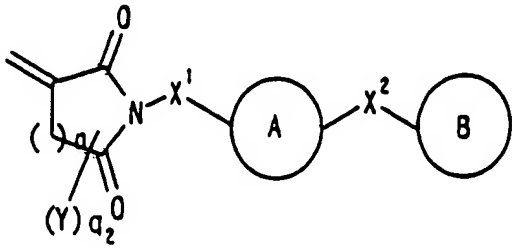


[I]

wherein each symbol has a meaning defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof, comprising reacting a compound represented by Formula:



wherein each symbol has a meaning defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof, or a compound represented by Formula:

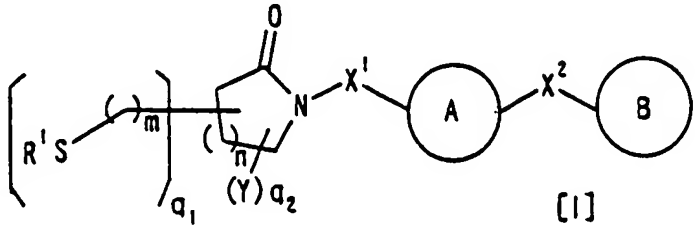


wherein each symbol has a meaning defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof, with a compound represented by Formula:

$$R^1SH$$

wherein R^1 has a meaning defined in Claim 1 or a salt thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound represented by Formula:



[I]

wherein ring A and ring B may be same or different and each is an optionally substituted homocyclic or heterocyclic ring,

wherein the substituents on ring A and ring B may be bound to each other and taken together with ring A, ring B and X^2 to form a condensed ring,

each R^1 may be same or different and is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group or SR^2

~~(~~wherein R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group~~)~~,

X^1 is a bond, an optionally substituted divalent C_{1-3} aliphatic hydrocarbon group or $-NR^3-$ ~~(~~wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an acyl group~~)~~, X^2 is a bond, an optionally substituted divalent C_{1-3} aliphatic hydrocarbon group, $-NR^4-$ ~~(wherein R^4 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an acyl group)~~, -O- or

$-S(O)_p-$,

wherein R^4 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group or an acyl group,

and ~~(~~wherein p is 0, 1 or 2~~)~~,

each Y may be same or different and is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, a halogen atom, a carboxyl group, an acyl group, an optionally substituted hydroxy group, an optionally substituted amino group, SR^5 ~~(wherein R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group)~~, an oxo group, a thioxo group, an optionally substituted imino group, a nitro group or a cyano group,

wherein R^5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group, an acyl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclic group,

each m may be same or different and is 0 or 1,

n is ~~an integer of 1 to~~ 3,

q_1 is an integer of 1 to 2n+4,

q_2 is an integer of 0 to 2n+3,

and the sum of q_1 and q_2 is 2n+4

or a salt thereof

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) A matrix metalloprotease inhibitor comprising a ~~compound~~ **composition** according to Claim 13 or a salt thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) A prophylactic and therapeutic agent against osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, cancer, periodontosis or corneal ulcer comprising a ~~compound~~ **composition** according to Claim 13 or a salt thereof.

16. (Original) A method for preventing and treating osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, cancer, periodontosis or corneal ulcer comprising administering a ~~compound~~ **composition** according to Claim 13 or a salt thereof.

17. (Cancelled)